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CIA 1-04 Watts (Adm.)

Ethelburt



ADM. ETHELBURT WATTS

Adm. Ethelburt Watts Dead; Intelligence, Combat Officer

Retired Rear Adm. Ethelburt Watts, naval attache in Tokyo before his retirement in 1954, died Sept. 30 at his home in Prunay-Sous-Ablis, France, after a long illness. He was 64.

When Adm. Watts retired after two years in Tokyo, he and Mrs. Watts lived here in Waverly Way, McLean, for a year and have resided in France since 1955.

From 1950 to 1952, Adm. Watts was assistant senior naval attache in London, and prior to that was assigned to the Central Intelligence Agency here.

He was born in the U.S.

Consulate at Prague, Czechoslovakia, where his father was assigned, and attended Kent School in Kent, Conn., before entering the Naval Academy, where he graduated in the class of 1924.

After graduating and until the early 1940s he served on various ships and commanded the destroyer Leary from 1938 to 1941. During this period he was also stationed here with the Office of Naval Intelligence and was assistant naval attache in Tokyo.

He was made executive officer of the amphibious force flagship Appalachian, participating in the Marshall Islands invasion, and in 1944 assumed command of Landing Ship Tank Group 17. Under his leadership the group participated in the invasions of the Philippine Islands and Okinawa.

He later commanded Landing Flotilla 8, which partici-

pated in the assault landing at Brunel Bay, Borneo, in June, 1945, and in the evacuation of Nationalist Chinese Army groups from mainland China in 1946.

He came to the CIA in 1951 and was assigned there for four years.

Adm. Watts was awarded the Army Legion of Merit and a Gold Star in lieu of a second Legion of Merit with Combat V from the Navy.

In addition to his wife, he leaves a son, Philip G., of Boston; a daughter, Katharine McGovern of Evanston, Ill., and a sister, Frances Watts Stevens of Paris, France.